

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

ANNOTATED COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1 CLAIM 1. (currently amended) Apparatus for massaging the
2 spinal area of a person's back, comprising a table having a main
3 frame and an upper surface for support of a person reclining in a
4 supine position looking up; said table having a head end, a foot
5 end, and opposed sides; an array of thrusters; each of said
6 thrusters terminate in a back engaging fixture at an upper end
7 thereof and having a lower end opposed to the upper end; said
8 fixture includes spaced finger [-like] shaped protrusions
9 depending therefrom and arranged to [simul] simultaneously engage
10 and massage both sides of the spinal area;

11 said upper surface has an upwardly opening, longitudi-
12 nally extending groove formed therein that is equal distant from
13 the table sides through which said thrusters extend;

14 an elongated vibrating member for supporting and
15 vibrating said thrusters, said vibrating member having opposed ends
16 and positioned in underlying relationship respective said table
17 surface for reciprocatingly receiving each of said thrusters
18 which are arranged in spaced relationship along a medial length
19 thereof to simultaneously bring said finger [-like] shaped
20 protrusions into engagement respective both sides of the spinal

21 area of the back, and biasing means at the lower end of each
22 thruster [:] ;

23 an upper slide bearing reciprocatingly receiving a medial
24 length of said vibrating member;

25 said opposed ends, respectively, of said elongated
26 vibrating member are connected for movement between a crank means
27 and a pivoted bearing means, respectively; and means for rotating
28 said crank means to induce a rapidly reciprocating motion
29 respective the longitudinal axis of the vibrating member while the
30 longitudinal axis of each said thruster is moved in a circle about
31 its vertical axis and of a magnitude whereby a vibratory sensation
32 is effected respective the [back] spinal area by rotating said
33 crank means at a relatively high rate of rotation;

34 an elongated spring plate positioned in underlying
35 relationship respective said elongated [mount] vibrating member
36 for engaging the biasing means of the thrusters to elevate each of
37 the finger[-like] shaped protrusions into a curved plane that
38 coincides with the curvature of the [back] spinal area,
39 whereby, said spring plate simultaneously engages the spring end of
40 each thruster to thereby resiliently bias the thrusters into
41 engagement with both sides of the spinal area.

1 Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1,
2 wherein said spring plate is supported by a base plate, said base
3 plate is slidably captured within lower slide bearings for fore and
4 aft movement to thereby move the vibrating member and spring plate
5 concurrently along a path parallel to the groove;

6 whereby the vibrating member, together with the base
7 plate impart a longitudinal movement into the vibrating member to
8 move said thrusters in a spiral[-like] pattern, thereby massaging
9 the [back along the] spinal area.

1 Claim 3. '(currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 2,
2 [wherein the apparatus further includes] and further including an
3 elevating member arranged for movement towards and away from said
4 vibrating mount assembly; the elevating means being supported by
5 the base plate to position the thrusters at an elevation that
6 biases the back engaging fixture against the spinal area with a
7 predetermined force.

1 Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1,
2 wherein said vibrating mount assembly is supported by a base plate,
3 said base plate is slidably captured within a lower slide
4 bearings for fore and aft movement to thereby move the vibrating
5 member and spring plate concurrently along a path parallel to the
6 groove;

7 and further including an elevating member arranged for
8 movement towards and away from said base plate; and elevating means
9 supported by said base plate to position the thrusters at an
10 elevation that biases the back engaging fixture against the spinal
11 area with a predetermined force;

12 whereby, the vibrating mount assembly together with the
13 base plate impart a movement into the thrusters that effect a
14 spiral [-like] pattern along the spinal area.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A massage table having an interior___ [and] a top surface of a curved configuration for receiving a reclining person looking up; and, an array of thrusters each having opposed ends with there being a back engaging fixture attached to one end thereof to simultaneously engage and massage both sides of the spinal area;

an upwardly opening longitudinally extending groove formed within the top surface through which said thrusters may ajustably extend [into contact with] towards a person's back;

a vibrating member positioned below the top surface in alignment with the spinal area, with the [fixture of the] thrusters being positioned within the groove and the fixture extended into contact with respect to the back; a lower bearing slide supported respective said table, a longitudinally extending base plate slidably supported in low friction relationship respective said lower bearing slide for reciprocating longitudinally of the spine;

a spring board spaced from said base plate and connected to be moved vertically respective said base plate and said vibrating member [end] and to be reciprocated longitudinally by said base plate; elevating means connected to said base plate to selectively change the spaced apart relationship between said spring board and said base plate; while the vibrating member is supported respective the lower bearing slide for the base plate;

said vibrating member having opposed ends, guide means formed in spaced relationship along said vibrating member, said array of thrusters being spaced from one another, said opposed ends of said thrusters forming a medial length thereof reciprocatingly received within said guide means of said vibrating member;

said thrusters having a spine engaging end opposed to an actuating end by which the fixtures of the thrusters are

resiliently forced into contact with the spinal area and reciprocated [respective] responsive to said vibrating member;

the head end of said vibrating member being supported by a journal means for reciprocal and pivotal movement with the opposed end thereof being moved with circular movement; whereby, said thrusters are moved in a circle at a relatively fast rate of movement which imparts a vibrating sensation in the back while simultaneously the thrusters move longitudinally at a relatively slow rate of speed.

1 Claim 6. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 5
2 wherein said vibrating member is supported by [an] the elevating
3 member which in turn is supported by an expansible chamber which in
4 turn is supported by [a] the base plate, said base plate is
5 slidably captured within slide bearings supported by the table for
6 fore and aft movement to thereby move the elevating member which
7 moves said spring plate and thrusters concurrently along a path
8 parallel to the groove;

9 whereby, the vibrating member together with the base
10 plate impart a movement into the thrusters that effect a [spiral-
11 like] massaging action while describing a spiraling pattern
12 parallel to and along both sides of the spinal column.

1 Claim 7. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 5
2 wherein said vibrating member is supported by said base plate and
3 is slidably captured within slide bearings for fore and aft
4 movement to thereby move the spring board and vibrating member
5 concurrently along a path parallel to the groove;

6 wherein, the elevating member further includes vertical
7 guides arranged for guiding movement of the spring board towards
8 and away from said base plate and said expansible chamber is a
9 pneumatic cylinder supported by said base plate, to position the
10 thrusters at an elevation that biases the fixture against the
11 spinal area with a predetermined force;

12 whereby, the vibrating support together with the base
13 plate impart a movement into the thrusters that effect a spiral [-
14 like] massaging pattern along either side of the spine.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 5,
wherein said vibrating member is supported by a base plate, said
base plate is slidably captured within slide bearings for fore and
aft movement to thereby move the spring board and vibrating member
concurrently along a path parallel to the groove;

and further including [a spring board arranged for
movement towards and away from said base plate; and] elevating
means supported by said base plate to position the thrusters at an
elevation that biases the fixture against the spinal area with a
predetermined force;

whereby, the vibrating support together with the base
plate impart a movement into the thrusters that effect a spiral[-
like] pattern along the spinal area.

1 CLAIM 9. (currently Amended) Massaging apparatus for
2 massaging a person's back in proximity of the spinal area, said
3 apparatus comprising a main frame member that forms a top surface
4 within which there is supported [a] an elongated vibrating bar;
5 a plurality of thrusters arranged in spaced relationship respective
6 one another, each of said thrusters having a massaging back
7 engaging end opposed to a spring end;

8 [an] said elongated vibrating [mount] bar reciprocatingly
9 receiving each said thruster;

10 said vibrating mount bar is provided with a pivoted end
11 opposed to an oscillated end wherein the oscillated end is moved
12 with a circular motion while the pivoted end reciprocatingly
13 receives the marginal pivoted end to thereby move each said
14 thruster with a different magnitude of oscillatory motion with the
15 thrusters adjacent the oscillated end of the vibrating mount being
16 moved with the greatest magnitude while the thrusters adjacent the
17 pivoted end of the vibrating [mount] bar being moved with a
18 minimum of movement;

19 a spring support mounted for movement toward and away
20 from said vibrating [mount] bar and simultaneously engaging each
21 spring end of said thrusters for moving the massaging end of each
22 thruster into engagement with the spinal area of one's back with a
23 selected force that is proportional to the selected distance
24 between the spring support and the vibrating mount;

25 said spring support is mounted for movement relative to
26 a base plate, said base plate is mounted for movement relative
27 [a] said main frame member, whereby, said base plate moves the
28 spring plate and the vibrating mount bar parallel to the
29 longitudinal axis of the spine to engage the spinal area with
30 massaging action that describes a spiral pattern.

31 Claim 10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein
32 said vibrating bar has spaced apertures for reciprocatingly
33 receiving a thruster therein.

1 Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim
2 10, wherein said top surface includes a groove extending from a
3 head end opposed to a foot end and along the spinal area for
4 receiving the back engaging end of the thrusters therethrough.

1 Claim 12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein
2 the pivoted end of said vibrating bar is positioned adjacent the
3 head end of the groove while the oscillated end of the vertical bar
4 is positioned at the foot end of the groove.

1 Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim
2 12, wherein the oscillated end of the bar is vibrated by connecting
3 the [toot] foot end of the bar to a crank that is rotated at a
4 relatively fast rotational speed while the head end of the bar is
5 pivotally and reciprocatingly mounted to form the small part of the
6 spiral which increases in size towards the crank.

End Of ANNOTATED claims 1-13.